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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/602,490	06/23/2000	Reiner Kraft	ARC9-1999-0245	1404

23334 7590 05/23/2003

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EXAMINER

JACOBS, LASHONDA T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

ARL

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/602,490	Applicant(s) KRAFT, REINER	
	Examiner LaShonda T. Jacobs	Art Unit 2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>3</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims **1-23** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Black et al (hereinafter, “Black”, 6,285,998).

As per claims **1** and **22**, Black discloses a method and computer readable medium of sharing queries in a hub processing unit coupled to a plurality of information processing unites over a network, the method on the information processing unit comprising the steps of:

- receiving a string from a user (col. 4, lines 60-65);
- determining if the string is a query, if the string is a query performing the sub-steps of (col. 4, lines 60-65):
 - a. storing the query in an information processing unit (col. 4, lines 60-65); and
 - b. forwarding the query to a hub processing unit in the event that the user selects a query for sharing (col. 4, lines 54-65).

As per claim **2**, Black discloses:

- wherein the sub-step of forwarding further includes the sub-step of receiving from the user, a selection of a query from a query history list (col. 5, lines 62-67, and col. 6, lines 1-17).

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As per claim 3, Black discloses:

- wherein the sub-step of forwarding further includes the sub-step of receiving from the user, a selection of a query from the received string that has been shown to be a query (col. 6, lines 1-17).

As per claim 4, Black discloses:

- wherein the determining step further includes the sub-step of analyzing the string for a particular character or characters to determine if the string is a query (col. 6, lines 1-17, and lines 49-67).

As per claim 5, Black discloses:

- wherein the sub-step of forwarding further comprises the sub-step of appending additional information from the user to the shared query (col. 7, lines 20-32).

As per claim 6, Black discloses:

- wherein the appending step further includes appending additional information comprising category, title or descriptive information (col. 7, lines 20-32).

As per claim 7, Black discloses:

- wherein the storing sub-step further includes storing the query in an information processing unit wherein the storing is temporary or permanent storage (col. 4, lines 60-65).

As per claim 8, Black further discloses:

- a step of repetitively processing incoming strings as long as strings are received from the user (col. 4, lines 54-65).

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As per claims **9** and **22**, Black discloses a method of sharing queries in a hub processing unit coupled to a plurality of client information processing units over a network, the method on the hub processing unit comprising the steps of:

- receiving a query selected for sharing by a user of a client information processing system (col. 4, lines 60-65);
- storing the query (col. 4, lines 60-65);
- catching search requests for shared queries entered by a second user (col. 4, lines 60-65, and col. 7, lines 20-32);
- processing the search requests (col. 6, lines 1-17);
- upon finding an interesting shared query by the second user, performing the further sub-steps of (col. 6, lines 1-17):
 - a. activating a hyperlink to request a search result set upon user selection of the hyperlink (col. 7, lines 34-53); and
 - b. displaying the search results set for a user's review (col. 6, lines 1-17).

As per claim **10**, Black discloses:

- wherein the catching step further comprises catching searches made through headlines for documents (col. 7, lines 20-32).

As per claim **11**, Black discloses:

- wherein the receiving step further includes a sub-step of validating a received query string (col. 4, lines 54-65).

As per claim **12**, Black further discloses:

- a step of awarding a reward or points for at least one query submission by a user (col. 7, lines 20-32).

As per claim 13, Black discloses:

- wherein the awarding step further comprises notifying an accounting manager of the query submission (col. 7, lines 20-32).

As per claim 14, Black discloses a client information processing unit coupled via a network with a hub processing unit apparatus for sharing queries comprising:

- an input for receiving a string from a user (col. 3, lines 55-67);
- a comparator for determining if the string is a query (col. 7, lines 20-32);
- an interface for storing the query in an information processing unit memory (col. 3, lines 55-67); and
- an output for forwarding the query to a hub processing unit in the event that an information processing unit user selects a query for sharing (col. 3, lines 55-67, and col. 4, lines 1-5).

As per claim 15, Black discloses:

- wherein the input further includes a selection device so that a user selects a query from a query history list (col. 3, lines 55-67).

As per claim 16, Black discloses:

- wherein the input further includes a selection device so that a user selects a query from the received string that has been shown to be a query (col. 3, lines 55-67, and col. 7, lines 40-53).

As per claim 17, Black discloses:

- wherein the comparator includes an analyzer which analyzes the string for a particular character or characters to determine if the string is a query (col. 6, lines 1-17, and lines 49-67).

As per claim 18, Black discloses:

- wherein the input further includes a graphical user interface that allows the user to append additional information to the shared query (col. 7, lines 20-32).

As per claim 19, Black discloses:

- wherein the graphical user interface further includes a pop-up dialog box that requests additional information comprising category, title, or descriptive information (col. 7, lines 20-32).

As per claim 20, Black discloses:

- wherein the information processing unit memory further includes permanent or temporary memory (col. 4, lines 60-65).

As per claim 23, Black discloses a computer readable medium further comprising:

- instructions for selective sharing URLs (col. 4, lines 60-65, and col. 7, lines 20-32).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. 5,806,059 to Tsuchida et al

U.S. Pat. 5,826,261 to Spencer

WO 01/16807 to Crandall et al

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 703-305-7494.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 703-308-7562. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

LaShonda T. Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

ltj
May 18, 2003


ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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